

VZCZCXRO1850
RR RUEHAP RUEHKN RUEHKR RUEHNZ RUEHPB
DE RUEHWL #0003 0080355
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 080355Z JAN 09
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5634
INFO RUEHAP/AMEMBASSY APIA 0522
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 5365
RUEHKN/AMEMBASSY KOLONIA 0036
RUEHKR/AMEMBASSY KOROR 0026
RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY 0771
RUEHSV/AMEMBASSY SUVA 0784
RUEHNZ/AMCONSUL AUCKLAND 1822

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 000003

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

TO EEB/ESC FOR DANIELLE MONOSSON AND TO OES/EGC FOR GRIFF
THOMPSON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [SENV](#) [ENRG](#) [PGOV](#) [NZ](#)

SUBJECT: NZ RESPONSE TO ACTION REQUEST CONCERNING THE
INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY (IRENA)

REF: SECSTATE 134385

1. (SBU) In response to reftel action request. Poloff contacted Richard Hawke, Manager of the Energy and Environment Office for the New Zealand Ministry of Economic Development. Hawke stated that the GNZ is aware of IRENA, that there have been internal GNZ discussions concerning the proposal, and that the GNZ has decided to not take a position on the initiative at this time. Hawke acknowledged that several governments, including the USG, oppose IRENA for the reasons of duplication and overlap with existing renewable energy programs. He explained that the GNZ has not yet seen a valid case to support the program, and that the GNZ is constrained by limited resources and previous commitments (for example, the Energy Development for Island Nations initiative sponsored by the GNZ, USG and the government of Iceland). Nevertheless, according to Hawke, NZ "is not saying no, and is not closing the door."
KEEGAN